

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGUI 00096 171020Z

12

ACTION AF-06

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6559

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGUI 0096

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AO, OAU

SUBJECT: EMBASSY COMMENT ON BOKASSA ADDRESS ASSAILING SOVIETS OVER
ANGOLA

REF: BANGUI 0094

1. EMBASSY'S ASSESSMENT OF PRESIDENT BOKASSA'S JANUARY 14
NATIONAL RADIO ADDRESS ON ANGOLA FOLLOWS:

2. CONSISTENT WITH EARLIER PRONUNCIATIONS (BANGUI NOTAL 0027, 0026,
001, 1922), BOKASSA HAS RETURNED FROM THE ADDIS FRAY ESPOUSING A
POLICY LINE SUPPORTIVE OF THE USG POSTURE TN ANGOLA. IN THIS LATEST
AND MOST UNCOMPROMISING CONDEMNATION OF SOVIET MEDDLING IN ANGOLA,
BOKASSA HAS HAD TO BEND THE FACTS OF FOREIGN ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO
THE CAR IN ORDER TO PLACE UNITED STATES IN SUPERIOR LIGHT TO SOVIET
UNION. HE HAS DONE SO WITH INTENT IN HIS ZEAL TO TAKE POSITION
BACKING US ON ANGOLAN ISSUE. ALTHOUGH HE HAS BEEN GENUINELY
ANTI-COMMUNIST ASIAN-STYLE SINCE TAKING POWER TEN YEARS AGO,
BOKASSA NOW (AS REPORTED BANGUI 0027 NOTAL) APPEARS TO BE EMBARKED
UPON AN ANTI-SOVIET COURSE AS WE OVER ANGOLA. IN THIS CONNECTION
PERHPAS MOST INTERESTING TWIST TO HIS ADDRESS IS HIGH MARKS
BOKASSA GIVES PRC WITH WHOM HE SEVERED TIES ON HIS FIRST FOREIGN
POLICY ACT AFTER TAKING POWER IN 1966.)

3. AS DEPARTMENT AND AID AWARE FROM CURRENT AND PREVIOUS PARA
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PAGE 02 BANGUI 00096 171020Z

SUBMISSIONS, A PERSISTENT THORN IN SIDE OF US/CAR RELATIONS HAD

BEEN LOW LEVEL OF USG ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE (85,000 IN FY-75)
WHICH SOVIET AID BOTH IN DOLLAR AND VISIBILITY TERMS FOR NUMBER OF
YEARS HAS DWARFED. WHILE EMBASSY DOES NOT THINK THAT EVEN IN CAR
CONTEXT AID CREDITS CAN BE TRADED FOR VOTES, WE WOULD NONETHELESS
FEEL MORE SECURE ON THIS LIMB TN WHICH WE ARE PRESENTLY PERCHED IF IN
TERMS OF MULTILATERAL EMPHASIS UNDERSTOOD TO BE IN CURRENCY IN
DEPARTMENT SOMETHING MORE SUBSTANTIAL MIGHT BE DONE THAN IN PAST
TO RAISE THE LEVEL OF USG DIRECT ASSISTANCE AND OUR OVERALL
PROFILE HERE.
SWING

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